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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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Abbas Rashid

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EXAMINER

ABELSON, RONALD B

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2666

DATE MAILED: 11/08/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/036,602

Applicant(s)

RASHID ET AL.

Examiner

Ronald Abelson

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 July 2005 and 22 April 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 39-77 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 77 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 39,40,44-51,53-55,60-62,64,65,70-74 and 76 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 41-43,52,56-59,63,66-69, and 75 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 December 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4/22/05, 10/19/05</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Specification

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

Page 1 "Attorney Docket No. NEXSI-01221US" must be removed, an application number must be provided, and a status on the application must be provided.

Page 1 "Attorney Docket No. NEXSI-01223US" must be removed, an application number must be provided, and a status on the application must be provided.

Page 1 "Attorney Docket No. NEXSI-01224US" must be removed, an application number must be provided, and a status on the application must be provided.

Page 1 "Attorney Docket No. NEXSI-01225US" must be removed, an application number must be provided, and a status on the application must be provided.

Page 1 "Attorney Docket No. NEXSI-01226US" must be removed, an application number must be provided, and a status on the application must be provided.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 47 and 48 are objected to because of the following informalities. The claims refer to a "second set of criteria" claim 47 line 2, claim 48 lines 1-2 without referring to a "first set of criteria". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claim 70 recites the limitation "said step (e)" in line 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

6. Claims 55, 60-62, 64, and 76 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Carlson (US 6,728,206).

Regarding claim 55, Carlson teaches a cross-bar switch (fig. 3 switch 350, col. 6 lines 6-28).

Carlson teaches a set of input ports to receive data packets (fig. 3 boxes 301, 303, 305, 307, 309, 311, col. 6 lines 54-56).

Carlson teaches a set of sink ports coupled to said set of input ports to receive and forward data packets (fig. 3 boxes 302, 304, 306, 308, 310, 312, col. 6 lines 54-56).

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Carlson teaches a set of data rings internal to the crossbar switch and coupling said set of input ports and said set of sink ports (fig. 3 rings 370, 390, col. 6 lines 21-23, 60-67).

Carlson teaches a multi-sink port coupled to each data ring in said set of data rings and each sink port in said set of sink ports (fig. 3 box 351, col. 6 lines 60-67). The examiner corresponds the applicant's sink ports with the "other components" in the reference.

Regarding claim 60, Carlson teaches the multi-sink port includes a multi-sink port ring interface coupled to said set of data rings to receive and store data (transfers PIO data to routing register 351, col. 7 lines 52-59).

Carlson teaches the multi-sink port includes a multi-sink port storage buffer coupled to said multi-sink port ring interface to receive and store data (transfers PIO data to routing register 351, col. 7 lines 52-59).

Carlson teaches the multi-sink port includes a sink request port coupled to said multi-sink port storage buffer to receive data from said multi-sink port storage buffer and transmit said data (data can be copied to any node in crossbar bus network, col. 7 lines 52-59).

Regarding claim 61, the multi-sink port further includes a look-up table coupled to said sink request port containing entries that correlate destination addresses to sink ports in said set of sink ports (fig. 3 box 351, routing table, determines which output ports data messages should be transmitted through, col. 7 lines 43-48).

Regarding claim 62, Carlson teaches each sink port includes a sink port ring interface coupled to said set of data rings to receive data (fig. 3 boxes 302, 304, 306, 308, 310, 312, output ports are gateways through which data flows out of crossbar switch, col. 6 lines 54-56, 60-67). The examiner corresponds the applicant's sink ports with the "other components" in the reference.

Carlson teaches each sink port includes a sink port buffer coupled to said sink port ring interface and said sink request port to receive and store said data (data can be copied to any node in crossbar bus network, col. 7 lines 52-59).

Carlson teaches each sink port includes an output port coupled to said sink port storage buffer to receive said data

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from said sink port storage buffer and transmit said data (fig. 3 see connection from box 302 to box 30).

Regarding claim 64, Carlson teaches an input port includes a communication interface to receive data packets from a communications link (fig. 3 see interface connecting box 30 and 301).

Carlson teaches an input port includes an input port storage buffer coupled to said communications interface to store data from said data packets (fig. 3 see boxes 330-335, col. 6 lines 6-28), said input port storage buffer coupled to at least one data ring in said set of data rings (col. 6 lines 60-67). Note, the data must be stored in order to be decoded.

Regarding claim 76, Carlson teaches a cross-bar switch (fig. 3 switch 350, col. 6 lines 6-28).

Carlson teaches a set of input ports to receive data packets (fig. 3 boxes 301, 303, 305, 307, 309, 311, col. 6 lines 54-56).

Carlson teaches a set of data rings internal to the crossbar switch and coupled to each input port to receive data (fig. 3 rings 370, 390, col. 6 lines 21-23, 60-67).

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Carlson teaches a multi-sink port coupled to each data ring in said set of data rings (fig. 3 box 351, col. 6 lines 60-67).

Carlson teaches the multi-sink port includes a multi-sink port ring interface coupled to said set of data rings to receive and store data (transfers PIO data to routing register 351, col. 7 lines 52-59).

Carlson teaches the multi-sink port includes a multi-sink port storage buffer coupled to said multi-sink port ring interface to receive and store data (transfers PIO data to routing register 351, col. 7 lines 52-59).

Carlson teaches the multi-sink port includes a multi-sink port coupled to said multi-sink port storage buffer to receive data from said multi-sink port storage buffer and transmit said data (data can be copied to any node in crossbar bus network, col. 7 lines 52-59).

Carlson teaches a set of sink ports coupled to said data ring and said multi-sink port to receive data packets (fig. 3 boxes 302, 304, 306, 308, 310, 312, col. 6 lines 54-56, 60-67).

The examiner corresponds the applicant's sink ports with the "other components" in the reference.

Carlson teaches each sink port includes a sink port ring interface coupled to said set of data rings to receive data (fig. 3 boxes 302, 304, 306, 308, 310, 312, output ports are

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gateways through which data flows out of crossbar switch, col. 6 lines 54-56, 60-67). The examiner corresponds the applicant's sink ports with the "other components" in the reference.

Carlson teaches each sink port includes a sink port buffer coupled to said sink port ring interface and said sink request port to receive and store said data (data can be copied to any node in crossbar bus network, col. 7 lines 52-59).

Carlson teaches each sink port includes an output port coupled to said sink port storage buffer to receive said data from said sink port storage buffer and transmit said data (fig. 3 see connection from box 302 to box 30).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary.

Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

8. Claims 39, 40, 44-46, 49-51, 53, and 54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carlson (US 6,728,206) in view of Bensaou (US 6,934,297).

Regarding claim 39, Carlson teaches a set of input ports to receive data packets (fig. 3 boxes 301, 303, 305, 307, 309, 311, col. 6 lines 54-56).

Carlson teaches a set of sink ports coupled to said set of input ports to receive and forward data packets (fig. 3 boxes 302, 304, 306, 308, 310, 312, col. 6 lines 54-56).

Carlson teaches a set of data rings coupling said set of input ports and said set of sink ports (fig. 3 rings 370, 390, col. 6 lines 21-23, 60-67).

Carlson teaches a multi-sink port coupled to a said data ring in said set of data rings (fig. 3 box 351, col. 6 lines 60-67). The examiner corresponds the applicant's sink ports with the "other components" in the reference.

Carlson teaches the multi-sink port identifies a destination address in one of said data packets (fig. 3 box 351, routing table, determines which output ports data messages should be transmitted through, col. 7 lines 43-48).

Carlson teaches the multi-sink port identifies one or more recipient sink ports in said set of sink ports (fig. 3 box 351, routing table, determines which output ports data messages should be transmitted through, col. 7 lines 43-48).

Although Carlson teaches any input port can communicate with any output port as long as the output port is not busy (col. 7 lines 4-7), the reference is silent on issuing a transmission request to said recipient set of sink ports.

Bensaou teaches issuing a transmission request (Request-to-Send 'RTS', col. 1 lines 53-56).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the system of Carlson by having the

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multi-sink port issue a Request-to-Send message to the addressed output ports and wait for a Clear-to-Send message (Bensaou: col. 1 lines 53-56) from the addressed output port before sending the data packets. This modification can be performed according to the teachings of Bensaou. This modification would benefit the system by ensuring that the output ports are ready to receive data before the data is sent to them.

Regarding claim 40, the multi-sink port is coupled to each data ring in said set of data rings (fig. 3 box 351, rings 370, 390) and each sink port is said set of sink ports (fig. 3 box 351, col. 6 lines 60-67). The examiner corresponds the applicant's sink ports with the "other components" in the reference.

Regarding claim 44, the multi-sink port forwards a data packet from said data ring to said sink port (data can be copied to any node in crossbar bus network, col. 7 lines 52-59).

Regarding claim 45, the multi-sink port forwards said data packet to said sink port if said data packet has a destination address corresponding to said sink port (fig. 3 box 351, routing table, determines which output ports data messages should be transmitted through, col. 7 lines 43-48).

Regarding claim 46, the multi-sink port includes a table correlating destination addresses to sink ports in said set of sink ports (fig. 3 box 351, routing table, determines which output ports data messages should be transmitted through, col. 7 lines 43-48).

Regarding claim 49, Carlson teaches the multi-sink port includes a ring interface coupled to said set of data rings to receive and store data (transfers PIO data to routing register 351, col. 7 lines 52-59).

Carlson teaches the multi-sink port includes a storage buffer coupled to said ring interface to receive and store data (transfers PIO data to routing register 351, col. 7 lines 52-59).

Carlson teaches the multi-sink port includes a sink request port coupled to said storage buffer to receive data from said storage buffer and transmit said data (data can be copied to any node in crossbar bus network, col. 7 lines 52-59).

Regarding claim 50, the multi-sink port further includes a look-up table coupled to said sink request port containing entries that correlate destination addresses to sink ports in

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said set of sink ports (fig. 3 box 351, routing table, determines which output ports data messages should be transmitted through, col. 7 lines 43-48).

Regarding claims 51 and 53, Carlson teaches each sink port includes a sink port ring interface coupled to said set of data rings to receive data (fig. 3 boxes 302, 304, 306, 308, 310, 312, output ports are gateways through which data flows out of crossbar switch, col. 6 lines 54-56, 60-67).

Carlson teaches each sink port includes a sink port buffer coupled to said sink port ring interface and said sink request port to receive and store said data (data can be copied to any node in crossbar bus network, col. 7 lines 52-59).

Carlson teaches each sink port includes an output port coupled to said sink port storage buffer to receive said data from said sink port storage buffer and transmit said data (fig. 3 see connection from box 302 to box 30).

Regarding claim 54, Carlson teaches an input port includes a communication interface to receive data packets from a communications link (fig. 3 see interface connecting box 30 and 301).

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Carlson teaches an input port includes an input port storage buffer coupled to said communications interface to store data from said data packets (fig. 3 see boxes 330-335, col. 6 lines 6-28), said input port storage buffer coupled to at least one data ring in said set of data rings (col. 6 lines 60-67). Note, the data must be stored in order to be decoded.

9. Claims 65, 70, and 71 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carlson (US 6,728,206) in view of LoGalbo (US 6,947,446).

Regarding claim 65, Carlson teaches a method for transferring data packets within a switch to a target destination (fig. 3 switch 350, col. 6 lines 6-28).

Carlson teaches receiving a set of data packets (fig. 3 boxes 301, 303, 305, 307, 309, 311, col. 6 lines 54-56).

Carlson teaches transferring said set of data packets to a set of data rings internal to the switch (fig. 3 rings 370, 390, col. 6 lines 21-23, 60-67), wherein a set of sink ports (fig. 3 boxes 302, 304, 306, 308, 310, 312, col. 6 lines 54-56) and a multi-sink port of the switch are coupled to said set of data rings (fig. 3 box 351, col. 6 lines 60-67).

Carlson teaches forwarding a data packet accepted by said multi-sink port to a recipient set of sink ports in said set of

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sink ports (fig. 3 boxes 302, 304, 306, 308, 310, 312, data can be copied to any node, col. 7 lines 52-59).

Carlson is silent on determining whether said multi-sink port is able to accept data packets, based on a first set of criteria.

LoGalbo teaches whether to accept data packets based on a first set of criteria (fig. 8 box 810, CRC detects an error, the data is discarded, col. 11 lines 25-34). Examiner corresponds the applicant's first set of criteria with the CRC of the reference.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the system of Carlson by transmitting packets with a CRC field. This modification can be performed according to the teaching of LoGalbo. This modification would benefit the system by preventing the transmission of erroneous data.

Regarding claim 70, the sink ports in said recipient set of sink ports transmitting said data packets (Carlson: fig. 3: see connection between box 302 and 30).

Regarding claim 71, determining whether said data packet contains a destination address corresponding to a sink port in

said set of sink ports (Carlson: fig. 3 box 351, acts as a "routing table", col. 7 lines 43-48).

10. Claims 73 and 74 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carlson (US 6,728,206) in view of LoGalbo (US 6,947,446) and further in view of Bensaou.

Regarding claim 73, Carlson teaches a method for transferring data packets to target destinations (fig. 3, col. 6 lines 6-28).

Carlson teaches receiving a set of data packets (fig. 3 boxes 301, 303, 305, 307, 309, 311, col. 6 lines 54-56).

Carlson teaches transferring said set of data packets to a set of data rings (fig. 3 rings 370, 390, col. 6 lines 21-23, 60-67), wherein a set of sink ports is coupled to the data rings (fig. 3 boxes 302, 304, 306, 308, 310, 312, col. 6 lines 54-56) and a multi-sink port is coupled to said set of data rings (fig. 3 box 351, col. 6 lines 60-67).

Carlson teaches forwarding a data packet accepted by said multi-sink port (fig. 3 box 351, acts as a "routing table", col. 7 lines 43-48) to a recipient set of sink ports in said set of sink ports (fig. 3 boxes 302, 304, 306, 308, 310, 312, col. 6 lines 54-56).

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Carlson teaches the multi-sink port identifies a destination address in one of said data packets (fig. 3 box 351, routing table, determines which output ports data messages should be transmitted through, col. 7 lines 43-48).

Carlson teaches the multi-sink port identifies one or more recipient sink ports in said set of sink ports (fig. 3 box 351, routing table, determines which output ports data messages should be transmitted through, col. 7 lines 43-48).

Carlson is silent on determining whether said multi-sink port is able to accept data packets, based on a first set of criteria.

LoGalbo teaches whether to accept data packets based on a first set of criteria (fig. 8 box 810, CRC detects an error, the data is discarded, col. 11 lines 25-34). Examiner corresponds the applicant's first set of criteria with the CRC of the reference.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the system of Carlson by transmitting packets with a CRC field. This modification can be performed according to the teaching of LoGalbo. This modification would benefit the system by preventing the transmission of erroneous data.

Although the combination teaches any input port can communicate with any output port as long as the output port is not busy (Carlson: col. 7 lines 4-7), the combination is silent on issuing a transmission request to said recipient set of sink ports.

Bensaou teaches issuing a transmission request (Request-to-Send 'RTS', col. 1 lines 53-56).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the system of the combination by having the multi-sink port issue a Request-to-Send message to the addressed output ports and wait for a Clear-to-Send message (Bensaou: col. 1 lines 53-56) from the addressed output port before sending the data packets. This modification can be performed according to the teachings of Bensaou. This modification would benefit the system by ensuring that the output ports are ready to receive data before the data is sent to them.

Regarding claim 74, receiving an acknowledgment in response to said transmission request from a first sink port in said recipient of sink ports (Bensaou: Clear-to-Send: col. 1 lines 53-56) and transmitting said data packet on a first data bus.

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Regarding transmitting on a first data bus note, Carlson teaches a bus ring for communications (col. 8 lines 5-7).

11. Claims 47 and 48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Carlson and Bensaou as applied to claim 44 above, and further in view of Saranka (US 6,314,085).

Regarding claim 47, the combination is silent on the sink port / buffer determines whether to accept said data packets based on a second set of criteria.

Saranka teaches determining whether to accept said data packets based on a second set of criteria (leaky bucket, threshold value, overflow and cells are allowed to be lost, col. 10 lines 6-20).

Regarding claim 48, the combination is silent on said sink port / buffer having sufficient storage resources for storing said data packet; and a total number of packets being received by said sink port not exceeding a predetermined number of packets.

Saranka teaches the sink port / buffer having sufficient storage resources for storing said data packet; and a total number of packets being received by said sink port not exceeding a predetermined number of packets (leaky bucket, threshold value, overflow and cells are allowed to be lost, col. 10 lines 6-20).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the system of the combination of Carlson and Bensaou by implementing a leaky bucket algorithm in each of the sink ports (Carlson: fig. 3 boxes 302, 304, 306, 308, 310, and 312). This modification can be performed in software. This modification would benefit the system by ensuring in the case of overflow that the packets already stored in the output port buffers will not be lost.

12. Claim 72 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Carlson and LoGalbo as applied to claim 71 above, and further in view of Bensaou.

The combination is silent on determining whether the multi-sink port is enabled to receive data packets; and determining whether the multi-sink port has sufficient resources to store the data packet.

Bensaou teaches issuing a Request-to-Send 'RTS' and Clear-to-Send 'CTS' messages between a pair of transmitting and receiving communication units, prior to the transmission of a packet (col. 1 lines 53-56). Note, the receiving communication unit will not issue a clear to send if it is not enabled to receive data packets or it does not have sufficient resources to store the data packet.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the system of Carlson by having a transmitting device send a RTS packet to the multi-sink port and waiting for a CTS packet from the multi-sink port before sending the packet (Bensaou: col. 1 lines 53-56). This modification can be performed according to the teachings of Bensaou. This modification would benefit the system by ensuring that the multi-sink port is enabled and has sufficient resources to accept the data packet.

Response to Arguments

13. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 39,40,44-51,53-55,60-62,64,65,70-74 and 76 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

14. Claim 77 is allowed.

15. Claims 41-43, 52, 56-59, 63, 66-69, and 75 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.


Conclusion

16. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ronald Abelson whose telephone number is (571) 272-3165. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Seema Rao can be reached on (571) 272-3174. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Ronald Abelson
Examiner
Art Unit 2666